

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 268.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 268, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING CERTAIN VETERANS' AFFAIRS HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE EXPIRING AUTHORITIES

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2353) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to delivery of health and medical care, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2353

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR PERSIAN GULF VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.—(1) Section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1998".

(2) Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1998".

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE CARE.—Subsection (e) of section 1720A of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(c) NURSING HOME CARE ALTERNATIVES.—(1) Section 1720C(a) of such title is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, not later than March 31, 1997, a report on the medical efficacy and cost effectiveness, and disadvantages and advantages, associated with the use by the Secretary of noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care.

(d) HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM.—(1) Section 7618 of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(2)(A) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, not later than March 31, 1997, a report setting forth the results of a study evaluating the operation of the health professional scholarship program under subchapter II of chapter 76 of title 38,

United States Code. The study shall evaluate the efficacy of the program with respect to recruitment and retention of health care personnel for the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall compare the costs and benefits of the program with the costs and benefits of alternative methods of ensuring adequate recruitment and retention of such personnel.

(B) The Secretary shall carry out the study under this paragraph through a private contractor. The report under subparagraph (A) shall include the report of the contractor and the comments, if any, of the Secretary on that report.

(e) ENHANCED-USE LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY.—(1) Section 8169 of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, not later than March 31, 1997, a report evaluating the operation of the program under subchapter V of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR HOMELESS CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.—Section 115(d) of the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-322; 38 U.S.C. 1712 note) is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

(g) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM OF COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Section 7 of Public Law 102-54 (38 U.S.C. 1718 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking out "During fiscal years 1991 through 1995, the Secretary" and inserting in lieu thereof "The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "(m) SUNSET.—The authority for the demonstration program under this section expires on December 31, 1997."

(h) HOMELESS VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM.—The Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-590) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 2(a) (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1998".

(2) Section 3(a) (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking out "during fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995."

(3) Section 12 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking out "each of the fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "each fiscal year through 1998".

SEC. 2. REPORTS.

(a) REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress, not later than March 1, 1997, a report on the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating into one program the following three programs:

(1) The alcohol and drug abuse contract care program under section 1720A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The program to provide community-based residential care to homeless chronically mentally ill veterans under section 115 of the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988 (38 U.S.C. 1712 note).

(3) The demonstration program under section 7 of Public Law 102-54 (38 U.S.C. 1718 note).

(b) REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE CONCERNING HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF MILITARY SERVICE IN PERSIAN GULF WAR.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences and with officials of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, review the scientific evidence, and assess the strength of such evidence, concerning association between military service in the Southwest Asia

theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and any disease that may be associated with such service.

(2) The Secretary shall, not later than March 1, 1998, submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review and assessment under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 1732 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out subsection (b);

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b) and striking out "or grant" both places it appears in that subsection; and

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c) and striking out "and to make grants" in that subsection.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of such section is amended by striking out "and grants".

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking out "and grants".

SEC. 4. DISPLAY OF POW/MIA FLAG AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.

(a) DAILY DISPLAY OF FLAG.—Subsection (a) of section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102-190; 36 U.S.C. 189 note) is amended—

(1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting in lieu thereof "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) on, or on the grounds of, each Department of Veterans Affairs medical center (except as provided in subsection (e)), on every day on which the flag of the United States is displayed."

(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

"(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISPLAY AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.—(1) Upon a determination by the director of a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center that the daily display of the POW/MIA flag at that medical center may be detrimental to the treatment of patients at that center, the provisions of subsection (a)(3) shall be inapplicable with respect to that medical center.

"(2) Whenever the director of a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center makes a determination described in paragraph (1), that officer shall submit a report on such determination, including the basis for the determination, to the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

(c) PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FLAGS.—(1) Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking out "Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator" and inserting in lieu thereof "The Administrator".

(2) The Administrator of General Services shall carry out subsection (c) of section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Public Law 102-190; 36 U.S.C. 189 note) with respect to the procurement and distribution of POW/MIA flags for the purposes of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of such section (as added by subsection (a) of this section) within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.